

## CLAIMS

We claim as our invention:

1. A method for the rapid and accurate reproduction of single and multi-cavity molding tools and mold cavities, comprising the steps of:
  - a. providing standard mold bases
  - b. milling standardized pockets in said mold bases
  - c. fabricating identical, interchangeable ceramic mold inserts having a standardized mounting surface and standardized external dimensions matching said standardized mold base pockets
  - d. securing said identical, interchangeable ceramic mold inserts to said standardized mold base pockets
2. The method of Claim 1 whereby said standardized interchangeable ceramic mold inserts are secured to said standardized mold base pockets through the application of a vacuum
3. The method of Claim 1 whereby said standardized interchangeable ceramic mold inserts are secured to said standardized mold base pockets via an adapter plate or frame made from a metallic composition having substantially the same or slightly lower coefficient of thermal expansion as that of said ceramic mold inserts.
4. The method of Claim 1 whereby said interchangeable ceramic mold inserts are produced by ceramic injection molding.

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5. The method of Claim 1 whereby said interchangeable ceramic mold inserts are made from aluminum oxide.

6. The method of Claim 1 allowing the molding of articles with improved dimensional accuracy and to tighter dimensional tolerances.

7. The method of Claim 1 allowing the reduction of dimensional or surface texture inconsistency between identical articles molded in different molds or in different mold cavities.

8. The method of Claim 1 whereby mismatch between matching articles molded in different molds or in different mold cavities is reduced.

9. The method of Claim 1 whereby the geometry of a molding cavity can be changed rapidly to that of a different design.

10. The method of Claim 1 whereby the economic life of a molding tool is extended through the use of standardized interchangeable ceramic mold inserts.

11. The method of Claim 1 whereby the investment and maintenance costs of tooling for injection molding are reduced.

12. The method of Claim 1 whereby the simultaneous mass-production of identical, matching or interchangeable molded articles can be rapidly implemented in different geographical locations.
13. The method of ~~Claim 12~~ whereby the molded articles are watch components such as watch cases, bracelet links and buckles
14. The method of Claim 12 whereby the molded articles are components for cellular telephones.

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